On receipt of the proposals, the Ministry processes and examine; and only complete proposals as per the guidelines of the Ministry, are considered for approval and financial assistance is released accordingly.

Ministry had provided an amount of Rs. 12.13 crore as financial assistance to the state of Punjab for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units during the 2005-06, 2006-07. The details are given below:-

Sector	Number of Unit	Location (District)
Oil Milling	13	Sangrur, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Mansa, Ropar, Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib.
Flour Milling	2	Ferozepur, Bhatinda.
Rice Milling	5	Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Muktsar, Bhatinda, Samana
Bakery products	2	Ludhiana
Fruit &'Vegetable	7	Hoshiarpur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib.
Meat & Poultry Products	3	Amritsar, Patiala.
Milk Processing	4	Ludhiana, Moga, Sangrur.
Human Resource Development (HRD)	7	Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Bhatinda
Research & Development (R&D)	1	Chandigarh

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007.

Potential in food processing sector

144. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India produces around 10 per cent of world's fruits and vegetables and has a good potential in food processing sector;

(b) whether Government propose to exploit the food processing with the help of private and corporate sectors, to improve the economy of the rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir. India produces around 10% of world's fruit and vegetable, and has huge potential in food processing sector.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has been implementing various Plan Schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries and to attract private investment in food processing sector in order to give boost to agro-food processing, which will help in improving the economy of the rural areas. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation/ Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing

Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A & N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas.

Since one of the major constraints for low level of processing in agro-food products is lack of infrastructure such as cold chain facilities and inefficient supply chain, the Ministry in the 11th Plan proposes to implement a revamped scheme for infrastructure development under which, it will give enhanced level of financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain Infrastructure, modernisation of abattoirs, setting up of quality control laboratory etc.

Educational backwardness of Muslims

145. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the educational backwardness among the Muslims in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government for improvement of educational backwardness among the Muslims, most particularly the poor living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee as many as 25% of Muslim children in the 6-14 year ago group have either never attended school or have dropped out; and only one out of 25 under graduate students and one out of the 50 Post Graduate students is found to be a Muslim, based on a Sample Survey.

(c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) special focus is given to the districts where the educationally backward communities reside*. The Government is also implementing the Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme to ensure that children studying in Madarsas get an education comparable in standard to the mainstream schools. Subject to finalization of the Xlth Plan, it is proposed to assist in the establishment of one college in each district, including district with Muslim minority concentration, with low Gross Enrolment Ratio.

Selection Committee for IIM Directors

146. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the process of appointment of new directors to the Boards of Indian Institutes of Management through Selection Committee, constituted for the purpose and later the same would be approved by the CCA; and

(b) if so, whether the Selection Committee for each IIM would comprise the Chairman of the Board of Governors, eminent academics and experts?